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Spring 2-1-2017

### LSH 326.01: Stories East and West

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## Spring 2017 LS 326, Stories East and West—Dr. Vanita

### Class and Teacher Information:

- Course Meeting: Tuesday, Thursday, 12.30-1.50 p.m.
- Course Credits: 3
- **Dr. Vanita**
- Office: Liberal Arts 101-A.
- Mailbox: in Liberal Arts 101.
- Office Hours: Tuesday 8.30-9.30, Thursday 2.00-3.00, and by appointment
- [Dr. Vanita's Email: ruth.vanita@umontana.edu](mailto:ruth.vanita@umontana.edu)

### Texts (all required):

1. Creation stories (from the Bible, Metamorphoses, the Rig Veda and other texts (will be posted on Moodle)
2. Goddess hymns (the Homeric hymn to Demeter; extracts from Hindu texts (will be posted on Moodle)
3. *Katha Upanishad* and Plato's *Crito* (available online; links will be posted on Moodle)
4. Fables, ancient and modern (links or texts will be posted on Moodle)
5. Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha* translated Hilda Rosner (Twentieth-Century Classics)
6. R. K. Narayan, *The Guide* (Penguin Classics)
7. Anurag Mehta, *The Inscrutable Americans*
8. E. M. Forster, *A Passage to India* (Mariner Books)
9. Short stories and essays on Moodle
10. Other supplementary secondary readings will be put up on Moodle
11. Films: "Siddhartha"; "A Passage to India"; "Guide"

### Goals:

- to examine texts composed in different languages in different times and places, but in comparable genres, such as fable, short story, novel, dialogue, hymns, creation stories and films
- to use the tools of comparative literature and cultural studies to compare and contrast texts written in the same historical periods in India and Europe/America
- to consider the issue of cross-cultural circulation of ideas and understand how texts speak to one another across time and space
- to study texts in their historical context, considering also how authors' travels, readings, and encounters influence the texts they compose
- to consider how an outsider's view of a culture can yield special insights but also misreadings

### Learning Outcomes:

- students will gain an understanding of circulation of ideas and texts over time between so-called East and so-called West
- students will be able to comprehend, analyze and compare texts in similar genres produced in different times and places, as well at the same time in different places
- students will grasp some of the methods of comparative literature, and some of the issues that arise in the translation, transmission and reception of texts

### Requirements:

Students are required to:

- (a) attend classes regularly. Please inform me in advance if you are unable to attend a class. More than four absences not explained to my satisfaction will result in halving your grade for attendance and class participation, and eight or more absences will result in a zero for attendance; leaving early or coming late without explanation will be treated as an absence.
- (b) bring a thoughtful **typed** question or comment once a week on a text being read that week, use it in discussion, and hand it to me at the end of class. Handwritten questions will not receive credit.

- (c) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the texts to class, and participate in class discussions.
- (d) complete quizzes and other assignments, and take the mid-term and final exams
- (e) write a paper. Topics will be given in advance.
- (f) **Check UM email and Moodle regularly**, especially the day before class. I send out notifications and changes by email. UM policy forbids me to write to you on any email address other than the UM one. The best way to communicate with me is by email.

### Grades:

- a) Class attendance and participation will be worth 20%, typed questions/comments 10%, quizzes and other assignments 20%, the mid-term 15%, the paper 15%, the final exam 20%. Late papers will not be accepted.
- b) Quizzes can be made up within the week, but not later. To make up a quiz, speak to me after class or email me to make an appointment.
- c) Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind, in any assignment, will result in your failing the class and may also result in other penalties such as expulsion from the University (for further details, refer to the section on Academic Misconduct in the Student Conduct Code).
- d) **If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, that will make it difficult for you to complete the work as I have outlined it, please notify me in the first week of class.**

### Extra Credit:

Liberal Studies and South & South-East Asian Studies are organizing three lectures this semester in collaboration with other departments. You can obtain two points extra credit for attending and writing a one-paragraph response to either of these lectures:

- 1. Prof Sukanta Chaudhari of Jadavpur University, India, on gender in the *Midsummer Night's Dream* and the play's reception in India, on 13 March, 3.30 p.m., LA103A-B
- 2. Prof Rupert Snell (Director, Hindi-Urdu flagship, U Texas at Austin) "Worlds Far and Near: Translating Seventeenth-Century Hindi Poetry for Readers Today", 6 April, 3.30 p.m., LA103A-B

In addition there are two other lectures in which you may be interested:

- 1. Presidential lecture by Kaushik Basu, Prof., Cornell University, former Chief Economist, World Bank. "Economics and the Art of Strategic Thinking" 30 January, 8 p.m, UC ballroom. Seminar, "The Concept of Power" 3 p.m., GBB 123.
- 2. Suzanne Goldenberg, reporter for 20 years for *The Guardian*, "Climate Change in the World's Two Largest Democracies: New Developments in India and the US" 16 February, 5 p.m., LA103A-B.

### Reading Schedule:

**This schedule is tentative. It is your responsibility to keep up with any changes.** Readings listed for a particular day are to be read before coming to class on that day, for example, come to class on 26 January having read the creation stories.

DATE	ASSIGNMENTS/READINGS	DUE DATES
Tuesday 1/24	Explanation of syllabus, and introduction to the course.	
Thursday 1/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Ovid creation story</li> <li>• Rig Veda creation hymns</li> </ul>	
Tuesday 1/31	Read Genesis and Hindu creation stories	
Thursday 2/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Homeric hymn to Aphrodite</li> <li>• Rig Veda Goddess hymns</li> <li>• <b>***Quiz on creation stories***</b></li> </ul>	
Tuesday 2/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Sappho's Ode to Aphrodite</li> <li>• Saundarya Lahari</li> </ul>	

DATE	ASSIGNMENTS/READINGS	DUE DATES
Tuesday 2/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hymn to Sophia</li> <li>Hymn to Mary</li> </ul>	
Thursday 2/9	Read <i>Katha Upanishad</i>	
Tuesday 2/14	Read Plato, <i>Phaedo</i>	
Thursday 2/16	Read Hermann Hesse, <i>Siddhartha</i>	
Tuesday 2/21	Continue <i>Siddhartha</i>	
Thursday 2/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See film “Siddhartha”</li> </ul>	***Quiz on <i>Siddhartha</i> ***
Tuesday 2/28	Continue film and discuss it	
Thursday 3/2	Read <i>Guide</i>	
Tuesday 3/7	Continue <i>Guide</i>	
Thursday 3/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See film “Guide”</li> </ul>	***Quiz on <i>Guide</i> ***
Tuesday 3/14	Continue film “Guide” and discuss it	
Thursday 3/16		<b><u>Mid-term exam</u></b>
Tuesday 3/21	SPRING BREAK	
Thursday 3/23	SPRING BREAK	
Tuesday 3/28	Read <i>A Passage to India</i>	
Thursday 3/30	Continue <i>A Passage to India</i>	***Quiz 1 on <i>Passage</i> ***
Tuesday 4/4	Film, “A Passage to India”	
Thursday 4/6	Continue film and discuss it	
Tuesday 4/11	Continue <i>A Passage to India</i>	
Thursday 4/13	Continue <i>A Passage to India</i>	
Tuesday 4/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essays/memoirs</li> <li>Sheila Dhar and William Dalrymple</li> </ul>	
Thursday 4/27	Read <i>The Inscrutable Americans</i>	
Tuesday 5/2	Continue <i>The Inscrutable Americans</i>	
Thursday 5/4	Complete <i>The Inscrutable Americans</i> .	<b>PAPER DUE TODAY</b>
Wednesday 5/10	<b>Final Exam 8:00-10:00 a.m.</b>	

### Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.